

On Monday, former President George W. Bush commuted the sentences of Border Patrol agents Ignacio Ramos and Jose Compean, who were convicted and sentenced to ten years in prison for wounding a suspected drug smuggler who was in the United States illegally and was attempting to flee back across the border. As a result, Agents Ramos and Compean will be released from prison within the next two months.

Like many Americans, I was extremely concerned that the Justice Department's aggressive prosecutions of Agents Ramos and Compean sent the wrong message to our Border Patrol agents -- a message that the rights of drug smugglers and human traffickers take precedence over the safety of law enforcement officers. This past summer, I joined many of my colleagues in [urging President Bush](#) to use his exclusive authority under Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution to commute the sentences of Ramos and Compean. Doing so was the right decision and I am very pleased that these two Border Patrol agents will soon be freed and reunited with their families.